

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
STATESBORO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA      )      CR618-014  
                                )  
                                )  
v.                              )  
                                )  
MICHAEL SHANE BISHOP      )

**PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE**

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, a federal grand jury sitting in the Southern District of Georgia returned a thirty-four-count Indictment against Defendant Michael Shane Bishop (hereinafter, the "Defendant") and several others, charging violations of 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and to Distribute Controlled Substances (Methamphetamine and Marijuana)); 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Possession of Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine, Marijuana, Heroin, Cocaine)); 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) (Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime); 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) (Possession of Firearms by a Prohibited Person); and 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Aiding and Abetting);

WHEREAS, the Indictment sought forfeiture pursuant 18 U.S.C. § 924(d), and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) of any firearm and ammunition involved in the commission of the offenses charged in the Indictment;

WHEREAS, the Indictment further sought forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853, of any proceeds obtained directly or indirectly, and any property used, or

intended to be used, in any manner or part to commit or to facilitate the commission of the charged offenses;

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2019, pursuant to a written plea agreement, Defendant agreed to enter a plea of guilty to Counts 31 and 32 of the Indictment, which charge a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a) and 18 U.S.C. § 924(c), and Defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States all right, title and interest in one (1) Forjas Taurus .38 caliber pistol (hereinafter, the "Subject Property"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to his plea agreement, Defendant agreed to waive the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2, and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment without further order of the Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. Pursuant 18 U.S.C. § 924(d), 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and Rule 32.2(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Government has established the requisite nexus between the above-described Subject Property and the offense committed by Defendant, and the Subject Property is hereby forfeited to the United States.

2. Upon entry of this Order, the Attorney General (or a designee) is authorized to commence any applicable proceeding to comply with statutes governing third-party rights, including giving notice of this Order.

3. Any person, other than the above-named defendant, asserting a legal interest in the Subject Property may, within thirty days of the final publication of notice or receipt of notice, whichever is earlier, petition the court for a hearing without a jury to adjudicate the validity of his alleged interest in the Subject Property, and for an amendment of the order of forfeiture, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

4. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(3), this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture shall become final as to Defendant at the time of sentencing and shall be made part of the sentence and included in the judgment. If no third party files a timely claim, this Order shall become the Final Order of Forfeiture, as provided by Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(2).

5. Any petition filed by a third party asserting an interest in the Subject Property shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury and shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the Subject Property, the time and circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title or interest in the Subject Property, and any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

6. If a petition is filed by a third party, and after the disposition of any motion filed under Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(1)(A) and before a hearing on the petition, discovery may be conducted in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure upon a showing that such discovery is necessary or desirable to resolve factual issues.

7. The United States shall have clear title to the Subject Property following the Court's disposition of all third-party interests, or if none, following the expiration of the period provided in 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2) for the filing of third-party petitions.

8. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce this Order, and to amend it as necessary, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(e).

9. The Clerk of the Court shall forward four certified copies of this Order to Assistant U.S. Attorney Xavier A. Cunningham, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia, P.O. Box 8970, Savannah, Georgia 31412.

Date: May 9, 2019



CHIEF JUDGE J. RANDAL HALL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA